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DUTCH TREAT

WITH ITS BEAUTIFUL CANALS AND MARKETS, DOWNTOWN AMSTERDAM IS LIKE ONE BIG OPEN-AIR MUSEUM PAGE 14

JETS SOAR PAST HURRICANES

Evander Kane of the Winnipeg Jets beats Joe Corvo of the Carolina Hurricanes to a loose puck during play at PNC Arena in Raleigh, N.C., on Tuesday. Kane scored a goal and three assists in the Jets' 4-1 win over the Hurricanes. For story, see page 23. GRANT HALVERSON/GETTY IMAGES

Manitoba flood fears on the rise

Similar to 2009. No one pressing panic button, says emergency minister Steve Ashton

This month's heavy snowfall on the Prairies has the Manitoba government warning that major flooding is possible this spring and that people will probably be forced from their homes.

But Emergency Measures Minister Steve Ashton says the province is not expecting the situation to be as bad as it was in 2011, when the military was called in to help and the final bill came to $1.2 billion.

The flood of 2011 was one of the worst on record. Thousands of people were forced from swamped houses and cottages along the Assiniboine River, Lake Manitoba and Lake St. Martin. Many First Nations residents have not returned to their homes. Ashton says that right now it looks like there will be a flood similar to 2009 when about 500 homes were deluged with water or damaged by shifting frozen slabs. Damage totaled about $60 million.

"No one is pressing any panic button," Ashton said Tuesday during a press conference packed with media.

"Our key goal through the upcoming weeks and month is to minimize impacts on people. There probably will be evacuations so there will be impacts at that level, but we are going to do whatever we can in terms of using all the tools available to us to minimize that impact."

Just last month, the province had said there was only a small risk of substantial flooding along major riversides. But March snowfall was 200 per cent more than normal, leading to increased concern.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

More coverage (page 3)

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Forecaster increases flood risk

Prediction. Risk raised to moderate to major, up from minor to moderate, expert says

SHANE GIBSON
shane.gibson@metronews.ca

Flood preparations are an annual ritual in Manitoba, where melted water comes from as far away as Alberta and South Dakota.

On Tuesday, in his second 2013 flood outlook, provincial flood forecaster Phillip Mutulu told Manitobans to expect a similar flood to the one we saw in 2009, but, as usual, much depends on the weather over the next several weeks: how quickly the snow melts, whether major dumps of snow or rain occur at the same time as the melt and whether unpredictable ice jams develop.

"The potential for rapid melt would of course aggravate the situation," Mutulu told media at a press conference where the province's flood risk was raised to moderate to major, from an earlier minor to moderate prediction. "We have unknown variables in the future weather conditions."

The worst of the damage in 2009 occurred just north of Winnipeg, where shifting ice jams caused sudden rises in the river.

South of the capital, roads were washed out and farmland was flooded, but residents were well protected by ring dikes and by homes that were moved onto or constructed on higher ground after the so-called flood of the century in 1997.

The province has an array of weapons designed to keep water flowing smoothly. Three amphibious icebreakers are used to break up rivers. There are dikes built around many smaller communities and diversion channels move water around larger cities.

Winnipeg is protected by the Red River Floodway — a 47-kilometre-long channel that diverts water around the city to the east and north.

Manitoba's Minister Responsible for Emergency Measures Steve Ashton noted that things have changed in the areas just north of Winnipeg since 2009. People who owned some of the most flood-prone properties in rural municipalities such as St. Clements and St. Andrews were bought out and moved.

Ashton said the areas of most concern this year are the Fisher River and Peguis First Nations, about 200 kilometres north of the provincial capital. Both places were also hit hard in 2009.

"We're going to be watching the situation on the Fisher River very closely," the minister said. "There are some scenarios where there could potentially be significant evacuations and a significant need to protect homes."

Ashton said flooding has been a persistent problem in that area and little has been done to prevent it. He said he would be in contact with the federal government as the flood season goes on.

Flood preparations are also underway in earnest upstream from Manitoba in North Dakota.

Officials in the Fargo, N.D., area have outlined plans to fill more than one million sandbags. Fargo is moving its garbage trucks out of a storage warehouse to make room for three machines that can fill 5,000 bags an hour.

The North Dakota National Guard says there are more than 2,000 soldiers and airmen who are prepared to help.

WITH FILES FROM METRO STAFF AND THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sandbags

2M

Manitoba has two-million sandbags, six sandbagging machines and 17,000 super-sandbags on the ready this spring, according to the province.

Manitoba's Minister Responsible for Emergency Measures Steve Ashton, right, listens as provincial flood forecaster Phillip Mutulu delivers Manitoba's second 2013 flood outlook Tuesday morning. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Annual war on potholes in full swing

Six road-patching trucks hit city streets this week. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

It's pothole season once again on Winnipeg streets, and this week the city is ramping up efforts to temporarily fill the voids.

Eleven crews — including six road-patching trucks and five hand-asphalt crews — are hitting major routes, bus routes and collector streets, focusing their efforts on curb lanes where water and snow melt run-off build-up create a perfect breeding-ground for potholes.

"City crews are out in full force," explained city spokesperson Ken Allen at a press conference on King Edward Street Tuesday morning. "Anywhere where there's more traffic, that's where we're making the repairs right now."

The city will move onto fixing holes on residential streets once the major routes are complete, but Allen couldn't say exactly when that work might start.

Allen said complaints to 311 about potholes are down from 850 this time last year to 630 this year, but admitted changes in weather could change that in a hurry.

"If we get more moisture, if we get a lot of freeze/thaw cycles, then we'll start to see more potholes emerge," he said. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

Budget

$1.5M

The City of Winnipeg puts $1.5-million into its yearly pothole busting budget, according to the city.

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Down Under. New zoo exhibit will have you hopping with kangaroos

Winnipeggers will get the chance to go Down Under at the Assiniboine Park Zoo this May.

On Tuesday, the zoo issued a press release stating that its newest permanent, seasonal exhibit — Australian Walkabout — will open on May 17 and remain so throughout summer.

"We've never had an exhibit like this at the Assiniboine Park Zoo before," said Tim Sinclair-Smith, director of zoological operations.

"It's going to be an entirely new experience for our visitors — they will literally be able to walk around in the same space as the animals."

The Australian Walkabout, which gives visitors the chance to walk alongside kangaroos and emus, features up to 14 female red kangaroos, their young, and four emus. Red kangaroos are known to be docile and are the largest of all kangaroo species.

A new exhibit at the Assiniboine Park Zoo will allow visitors to get up close and personal with kangaroos. GETTY IMAGES

The exhibit consists of an outdoor enclosure about the size of a school gymnasium, located just south of the Shirley Richardson Butterfly Garden inside the zoo, officials said, adding that this type of exhibit is common in Australian zoos but rarely found in North American zoos.

The Assiniboine Park Zoo is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and, starting on March 29, will be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. METRO

Blaze levels small-town hotel

Despite firefighters' efforts, the Alonsa Hotel in the small town of Alonsa, Man., was destroyed early Tuesday morning, RCMP officials said. There were no guests in the rooms at the time of the blaze and the cause of the fire is still under investigation. Alonsa is located about three hours northwest of Winnipeg. RCMP HANDOUT

Top 10 list

Katz among top paid mayors

Winnipeg's own Sam Katz has made the top 10 list of highest paid mayors in Canada.

According to a Toronto Star report, Katz came in at No. 9, with a salary of $123,910, which he earned in 2011. His salary in 2012 was not available.

In top spot was Brampton, Ont., Mayor Susan Fennell, at $213,727. METRO

Campaign

Vote for the province's worst roads online

CAA Manitoba is once again calling for people to vote on the province's worst roads.

The automobile club is expected to launch its 2013 worst road campaign on Wednesday.

Visit caamanitoba.com for more information on how to vote. METRO

Winnipeg folk band Red Moon Road recorded its new EP, Tales from the Whiteshell, in one of Falcon Trails Resort's log cabins. CONTRIBUTED

Backwoods suit Red Moon Road

Eco-cabin. Trio's new album inspired by nature

Winnipeg folk band Red Moon Road recorded its new EP, Tales from the Whiteshell, in one of Falcon Trails Resort's log cabins.

The trio — comprised of vocalist Sheena Rattai and multi-instrumentalists Daniel Peloquin-Hopfner and Daniel Jordan — set up shop in an eco-cabin (named Juniper) on High Lake, which is just east of Falcon Lake.

"We're doing a lot of the process ourselves, just isolating ourselves out here in the woods," Peloquin-Hopfner says. "We're boiling water from the lake, heating the place with wood, just trying to really set the vibe, which we hope will shine through on the finished product."

Formed in 2009 after Jordan and Peloquin-Hopfner flipped a sailboat on Lake of the Woods, Red Moon Road feels especially connected to the backwoods. That fact will be evident on new songs such as Halfway to Juniper and Mighty Glad You Came, a song that gets its melody from the song of the white-throated sparrow.

"It's a song by Daniel Jordan that he wrote about his family's cabin, which is on Lake of the Woods," Peloquin-Hopfner says. "Most of the words have faded, but it says 'Mighty glad you came.' Daniel always says when he was a kid that's what he thought the cabin was saying to him when he showed up."

Red Moon Road release Tales from the Whiteshell on Thursday at the West End Cultural Centre.

Opening the show are singer-songwriters Sol James, JD Edwards, Beth Hamilton and Don Amero performing in the round.

Tickets are $15 at the WECC, Ticketmaster, Winnipeg Folk Festival Music Store and Music Trader or $20 at the door. Showtime is 8 p.m. JARED STORY/METRO

Winnipeg to rally in favour of controversial anti-bullying bill

The organizer of a pro-Bill 18 rally said it was her own experiences with bullying and her desire for a safe learning environment for her kids that spurred her to plan Thursday's event.

Rebecca Sokol, a rural Manitoba mother of two young children, said the central message of the rally, which begins at 3 p.m. at the Manitoba legislature, is that the anti-bullying Bill 18 is "about families and not about sexuality."

"I just hope that the community hears that we're behind families (affected by bullying), their cries are not going unheard, we are listening," said Sokol.

"(The debate) is more focused on who loves who as opposed to the whole family part of this ... we want our kids to feel safe."

The rally is mainly being promoted on social networking site Facebook and, as of Tuesday afternoon, there were more than 250 people who pledged to attend.

Sokol said she agrees with many aspects of Bill 18, including the controversial clause requiring all schools — even faith-based — to allow gay/straight alliance groups.

However, Sokol said the focus on that issue has diverted attention from Bill 18's measures when it comes to cyber bullying.

"It's so important nowadays, because now you can't go home and be safe, you turn on the computer and it's there," she said, adding her eldest child will soon be going to school.

"I want her to have a place to turn to, no matter who she is in life, she should have a place to turn … Those types of programs (gay-straight alliances) really need to be in schools."

Sokol said details of the rally are still being worked on, but she expects several speakers to be in attendance.

Thursday's rally is the first of two planned for spring break, with a second one at the legislature on Saturday at 1 p.m.

Rudy Zacharias, one the event's organizers, said he and fellow University of Winnipeg students behind the rally work with youth groups and therefore see the benefits of Bill 18.

"We're not going to say that religious groups are wrong, they can oppose it, but we want to show there's also others who do support it," he said, adding he was invited to speak at Thursday's rally by Sokol and will be there.

Zacharias said his group feels Bill 18 "essentially gives equality" to all youth in the school system.

Wolseley MLA Rob Altemeyer said his NDP government appreciates the public shows of support.

"Absolutely it makes a difference," said Altemeyer, who will be attending Thursday's rally. BERNICE PONTANILLA/METRO

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Curfews imposed in Myanmar as violence spreads

Religious tensions. Unrest sparked last week in the central city of Meikhtila; clashes last year left hundreds dead in the west

Authorities in Myanmar imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in three townships on Tuesday after anti-Muslim religious violence touched new parts of the country, edging closer to the main city of Yangon.

State television reported incidents in the three townships in Bago region, all within 150 kilometres of Yangon. The latest attack Monday night was in Gyobingauk, where it said "troublemakers" damaged a religious building, shops and some houses. The report said similar attacks on religious buildings, shops and houses occurred Sunday night. Official reports use the term "religious buildings" in an apparent attempt to dampen passion, though in most cases the targets were reportedly mosques.

A Myanmar Muslim in Malaysia protests against unrest in Meikhtila, Monday. LAI SENG SIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The announcement said an emergency law known as Section 144 would be applied in the three townships, which will ban public assemblies, marches and speeches, and impose a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew.

The religious unrest began with rioting a week ago in the central city of Meikhtila, sparked by a dispute between a Muslim shop owner and his Buddhist customers.

The New Light of Myanmar newspaper said Tuesday that eight more bodies were found in Meikhtila as soldiers cleared devastated areas set ablaze by anti-Muslim mobs during three days of rioting, bringing the death toll to 40.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hard times remembered

Former political prisoner Fatos Lubonja speaks during the inauguration ceremony of a memorial to commemorate all former political prisoners who suffered under the Communist regime of Albania's late dictator Enver Hoxha, in Tirana, Tuesday. The memorial is formed of a 2.4-tonne fragment of the Berlin Wall placed next to a concrete bunker and supports taken from a notorious mine in Spac, some 100 kilometres to the north, where political prisoners were once forced to work under the notorious Hoxha regime. HEKTOR PUSTINA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Coming to America

Prosecutors break up trafficking ring

Romanian prosecutors have searched tourism agencies on suspicion they are a front for a ring that trafficks Romanians into the U.S. and Canada, through Mexico. Some 600 people travelled to Mexico and of those, 300 were discovered in the U.S., prosecutors said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Poland

Trial opens for men who allegedly stole van with coffins

Three men have gone on trial in Poland, suspected of having stolen a van in Germany that contained 12 coffins. They were arrested in October and the coffins — with bodies — were found afterward in the woods. The thieves had apparently dumped the coffins after they realized the van was on its way to a crematorium. The men could face up to 10 years in prison.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Malaysia under fire for mass killing of macaques

About 100,000 macaques are killed in Malaysia each year in urban and suburban areas. WONG MAYE-E/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Animal activists on Tuesday criticized the Malaysian government for the mass culling of nearly 100,000 macaques a year, warning it threatens their survival.

The country's wildlife department defended the move as an internationally accepted method to control a growing population of pest species. Last year, 97,119 monkeys were killed mostly in urban and agricultural areas, where they destroyed crops and attacked people, said senior wildlife official Salman Saaban.

This was up from nearly 88,000 macaques killed in 2011, mostly by gunshot as they are difficult to trap, he said.

British animal-protection group BUAV said Malaysia was applauded in 2008 for reinstating a ban on the export of macaques for research purposes, but it was appalled now with the mass killing.

"There are humane ways to control monkey populations, including reproduction control, relocation and educating the public to change their behaviour," it said in a statement.

Malaysia's Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said the mass slaughter was alarming and called for better efforts to manage the conflict, including sterilizing the females.

"The continued mass culling is certain to jeopardize the survival of the macaques. If we continue at this rate, there will be none left in the next decade," said opposition politician N. Surendran.

Salman said the culling does not risk extinction as the population in protected forests was untouched. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Where they stand

A Malaysian wildlife survey in 2007 estimated that peninsular Malaysia was home to 740,000 long-tailed macaques, a group categorized as of "least concern" in the International Union for Conservation of Nature's list of threatened species.

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Italian court orders retrial for Amanda Knox and ex-boyfriend

Protracted murder case. Pair were convicted and later acquitted in slashing of roommate

Italy's highest criminal court ordered a whole new trial for Amanda Knox and her former Italian boyfriend on Tuesday, overturning their acquittals in the gruesome slaying of her British roommate.

Knox, now a 25-year-old University of Washington student in Seattle, called the decision "painful" but said she was confident she would be exonerated.

The American left Italy a free woman after her 2011 acquittal — but only after serving nearly four years of a 26-year prison sentence from a lower court that convicted her of murdering Meredith Kercher. The 21-year-old British exchange student's body was found in November 2007 in a rented house the two shared in the Italian town of Perugia. Her throat had been slit.

Raffaele Sollecito, Knox's Italian boyfriend at the time, was also convicted, sentenced and later acquitted.

It could be months before a date is set for a fresh trial for Knox and Sollecito.

Italian law cannot compel Knox to return for the new trial and one of her lawyers, Carlo Dalla Vedova, said she had no plans to do so.

It was a tough blow for the former exchange student, whose parents have had to mortgage both their homes to raise funds for her lengthy, expensive defence.

Prosecutors alleged that Kercher was the victim of a drug-fuelled sex game gone awry. Knox and Sollecito denied wrongdoing and said they weren't in the apartment that night, although they acknowledged they had smoked marijuana and their memories were clouded.

An Ivory Coast man, Rudy Guede, was convicted of the Kercher slaying in a separate proceeding and is serving a 16-year sentence.

Whether Knox ever returns to Italy to serve more prison time depends on a string of ifs and unknowns.

Whether Italy actually requests extradition will be a political decision made by a future Italian government.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amanda Knox in 2011 after hearing the verdict that overturned her murder conviction. PIER PAOLO CITO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Prepared statement

Knox reacts

Knox said it was "painful to receive the news," after the trial showed the prosecution case was "unfounded and unfair."

"My family and I will face this continuing legal battle as we always have, confident in the truth and with our heads held high in the face of ... unreasonable adversity," the 25-year-old said in a statement Tuesday.

Mark Waterbury, author of The Monster of Perugia: The Framing of Amanda Knox, said, "It just amazes me that the system drags on ... when the case would have been thrown out in the United States long ago."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

War on drugs. Police went too doggone far in search, says U.S. Supreme Court

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that police violated a Miami-area homeowner's constitutional rights by using a dog to sniff outside the home being used to grow marijuana.

The court voted 5-4 to uphold a court decision throwing out the evidence seized because of Franky the dog's alert to police.

Justice Antonin Scalia said a house and its surroundings are constitutionally protected. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Franky, a narcotics-detector canine. ALAN DIAZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Royal Caribbean

Death on cruise 'suspicious': FBI

An FBI spokesman says a death aboard a Royal Caribbean cruise ship has been classified as suspicious.

The FBI is investigating the death of a 62-year-old Virginia woman who travelled on the Enchantment of the Seas. Royal Caribbean says the woman's husband found her body inside her cabin on Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toronto mayor rejects 'lies' of alcohol abuse

Toronto's embattled mayor is denying allegations that he showed up drunk for an official function last month, dismissing the latest controversy to plague his mayoralty as "lies after lies."

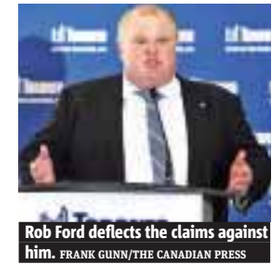
An agitated Rob Ford addressed the allegations briefly at a news conference Tuesday, blasting a Toronto newspaper for what he called its "relentless" attacks against him.

"It's the Toronto Star going after me again," he said.

The Star reported Ford was asked to leave the Garrison Ball, which raises money for the Wounded Warriors charity, over concerns he was drunk.

It also said current and former members of Ford's staff have described a longtime battle with alcohol abuse.

The paper's report is based on several unnamed organizers and guests. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Rob Ford deflects the claims against him. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Moonshine, aftershave killing droves in ex-Soviet nations

A supermarket in Ternopil, western Ukraine. ROMAN ZACHARIJ/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Alcohol causes 40 to 60 per cent of premature deaths among working-age men and a third of women in the former Soviet nations, according to research from medical journal The Lancet. Homemade and non-commercial spirits are blamed, along with government failures, for the death of around a million people annually.

"The big problem is the easy availability of spirits from pharmacies, sold as products such as aftershave," Martin McKee, Lancet author and alcohol specialist at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, told Metro. "Everyone knows about this, but there is a reluctance toward programs with a medical approach."

Of the 12 ex-Soviet states, Ukraine and Belarus are the greatest concerns, says McKee. "There are no restrictions, and the problems continue to grow."

Russia is one of the highest consumers of alcohol and has the highest risk rating from the World Health Organization. There has been progress — spirits are more tightly controlled, and beer has replaced vodka as the most popular drink — but the problem is growing.

"Despite some advances, the situation is desperate," said Dr. Yury Razvodovsky, alcohol and drug researcher at Belarus' Grodno State Medical University. "It's crucial to improve the quality of licensed alcohol as many people believe homemade products are better, explaining the popularity of moonshine." Police must target illegal production, now a major industry, Razvodovsky added.

KIERON MONKS/METRO WORLD NEWS

Perils of alcohol

"The cause of two-thirds of alcohol mortality is sudden cardiac arrest with no warning," said Kirill Danishevsky, co-chair of Control Alcohol!, a Russian grassroots group.

- The Lancet report found that alcohol increased the risk of diseases such as tuberculosis.
- Drinking was also tied to homicide rates.

Regulator ups capital buffer on 6 biggest banks

Too big to fail. Move aims to limit the chance a major bank 'would encounter distress or failure,' says OSFI head

The federal financial supervisor has slapped a too-big-to-fail label on Canada's six largest banks, declaring they will need to carry a bigger capital buffer and be subjected to stricter supervision than their smaller peers.

The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions said Tuesday that the "systemically important" designation stems from a framework issued by the Basel committee on banking oversight in October that set out guidelines for assessing domestic financial institutions.

Under the new OSFI requirement, the Bank of Montreal, Bank of Nova Scotia, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, National Bank of Canada, Royal Bank of Canada and Toronto-Dominion Bank will be subject to an additional one per cent capital buffer for risk.

The banks will need to have a common equity tier 1 ratio of eight per cent as compared with seven per cent for smaller, less important financial institutions as of Jan. 1, 2016.

"The measures ... are designed to limit the likelihood that a major bank would encounter distress or failure that could negatively impact the Canadian economy or taxpayers," OSFI head Julie Dickson said in a news release.

Coincidentally, the Bank of Canada announced it would regulate SwapClear, the dominant global system for centrally clearing over-the-counter interest rate swaps operated from the United Kingdom.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

When studying really pays off

Nick d'Aloisio, 17, displays his mobile application Summly in London on Tuesday. He has become one of Britain's youngest Internet entrepreneurs after selling the app to search giant Yahoo. D'Aloisio, who dreamed up the idea for the content-shortening program when he was studying for his exams, said he was surprised by the deal. As with its other recent acquisitions, Yahoo didn't disclose how much it is paying for Summly, although British newspapers put the deal's value at several million dollars. MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mortgages. BMO to end special low interest rate

Bank of Montreal will end a controversial low mortgage rate at the end of this week, when the limited-time offer runs out. The bank says the posted rate for a fixed five-year mortgage will return to 3.09 per cent, where it was before being lowered to 2.99 per cent.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty had called Bank of Montreal to express his disapproval of its decision to offer the special low rate starting on March 4.

The minister also praised other banks when they didn't follow Bank of Montreal's lead, and had one of his officials make a call when Manulife later announced a rate cut. Manulife decided a day later to reverse its cut, but BMO kept its offer in place.

The official date for the BMO change is Friday, but Canadian banks will be closed that day for the Good Friday holiday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Say Yes to the Dress. Kleinfeld Bridal coming to Hudson's Bay

Canadian brides could soon be crying and gushing as they say "yes" to the dress because retailer Kleinfeld Bridal is setting up shop next year in Toronto.

Hudson's Bay announced Tuesday that the department store will have exclusive rights to the luxury brand in Canada. It plans to open a 20,000-sq.-ft. Kleinfeld salon in its Queen Street location.

Kleinfeld, first founded in 1941, is famous for its 35,000-sq.-ft. salon in the Chelsea district of Manhattan that features thousands of designer gowns. But it has come to mainstream prominence through the TLC television reality show, Say Yes to the Dress, where brides go in search of the ideal wedding gown.

Some are picky and difficult, while others are aiming to please loved ones with their choice or desperately trying to stay within their budgets. But the show usually ends with soon-to-be brides in tears as they say "yes" to their dream dress. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Market Minute

DOLLAR 98.39¢ (+0.47¢)

TSX 12,706.38 (+25.67)

OIL $96.34 US (+$1.53)

GOLD $1,595.70 US (-$8.80)

Natural gas: $4 US (+14¢)
Dow Jones: 14,559.65 (+111.90)

Real estate

Home-buying intentions plunge

The number of Canadians expecting to buy a home within two years has dropped dramatically even though overall confidence in real estate remains strong, according to an annual survey by Royal Bank of Canada. The poll found 15 per cent of those surveyed said they were likely to buy in the next two years, a drop from 27 per cent of respondents in last year's survey.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cyprus financial crisis

Bank shutdown enters 2nd week

Cypriot businesses were under increasing strain to keep running Tuesday after authorities stretched the country's bank closure into a second week amid fears depositors will rush to drain their accounts. All but two of the country's largest lenders had been due to reopen Tuesday, after being shut since March 16 while politicians worked on a bailout deal for the country. They'll now reopen Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Language dispute

'Ogooglebar' causes dustup

Sweden's language watchdog has accused Google of trying to control the national language in a dispute over the definition of the colloquial term "ungoogleable" — or "ogooglebar," in Swedish. The watchdog defined it as something "that cannot be found on the web with a search engine." But Google objected, asking for changes showing it refers to Google searches.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHEN YOU CAN'T BEAR PANDA HYPE

JUST SAYIN'

Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca

I'm not sure what it is about giant pandas.

Most of the time, they just sit there. The rest of the time they eat bamboo. Repeat.

But this week, two giant pandas are the toast of Toronto, and therefore the rest of Canada. China has loaned two of the rare bears to Canada: five years in Toronto, and then five in Calgary, and they landed at Pearson airport Monday, via FedEx.

Stephen Harper, who looks a little panda-esque himself, signed for the bears.

The rest of us will have to travel to Toronto or Calgary if we want to watch Er Shun (the girl panda) and Da Mao (the boy) just sit there and eat bamboo.

Of course, the other important panda viewing activity is watching them have sex. There are only between 1,500 and 3,000 of these bears left in the world, so whenever a pair overcomes the performance anxiety that goes with being a spectacle of international co-operation and produces a cub or cubs, there is much rejoicing.

There's even a form of pornography dedicated to encouraging pandas to get it on. It doesn't really work.

So Er Shun and Da Mao travelled 15 hours in a box to live in a zoo and get gawked at. Not a tantalizing prospect if you prefer the seclusion and serenity of the mountain forests of your natural habitat in Sichuan, China. But when you're on the Red List of Threatened Species, I suppose you should feel grateful you can still earn your bamboo by just sitting there, looking awfully cute.

So cute that Toronto hopes millions of people will line up to watch Er Shun and Da Mao just sit there, plus buy the inevitable panda spinoffs.

Of course, not everyone is enchanted by the pandamonium, especially those who think we should close all the zoos and set the animals free into the wild.

Where, I might add, it is more than likely they will be systematically poached, climate changed, overrun — and run over — into oblivion.

Any visit to a zoo these days is a depressing experience, not just because zoos are depressing places (spend some time watching morose gorillas behind glass: uplifting), but because there is literally no survival alternative for a vast array of species on display.

Zoos are, really, the last safe places for many animals. But only the cute ones — like pandas — or the interesting ones — like gorillas.

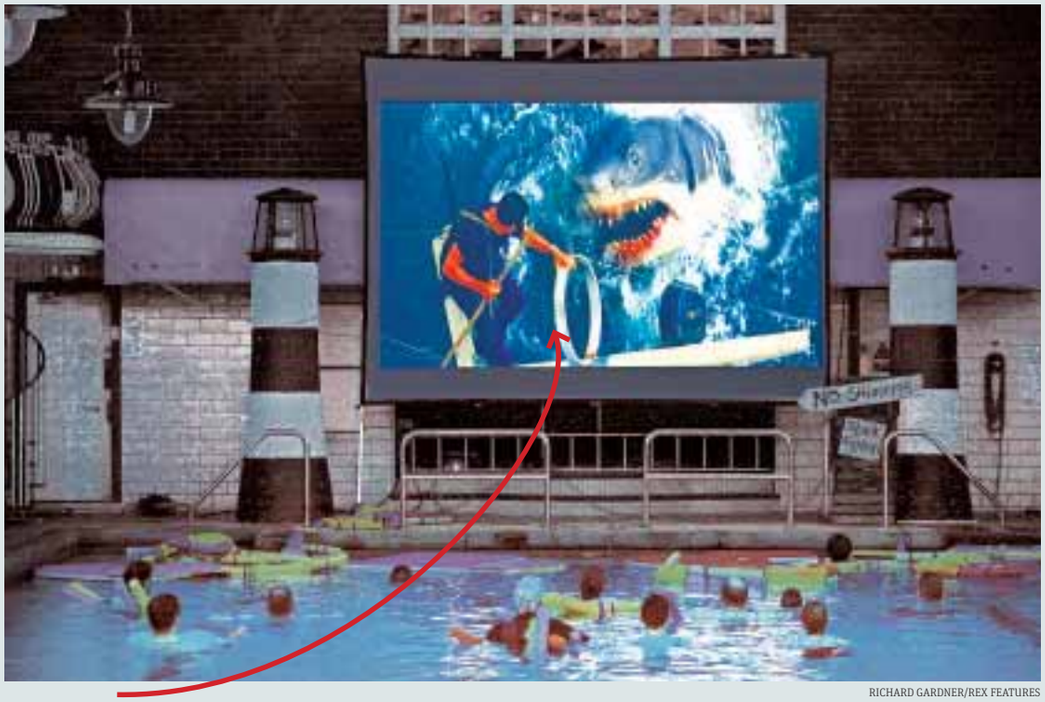
Ugly or nondescript critters just go quietly extinct without a fuss even from animal rights advocates, who have a tendency to champion the poster pandas and leave the wart hogs to fend for themselves.

If you don't believe me, I leave you with a simple number, more eloquent than I will ever be: 200.

That's the number of species, according to the UN, that are gone everyday.

ZOOM

Stop watching and start paddling



RICHARD GARDNER/REX FEATURES

Ever see a shark attack in a pool?

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water ... there's a shark attack on your screen. A swimming pool in Leeds, England, has been transformed into a swim-along cinema.

The temporary set up at Bramley Baths featured a large projector screen and speakers streaming the audio both under and over the water.

For Jane Earnshaw, cinema organizer and festival director of I Love West Leeds Festival, coming up with the idea of a swim-along cinema was simple.

"In the past, our festival organized pop-up cinemas in parks and housing estates," she told Metro. "I wanted to have one in a local swimming pool and I thought to myself, 'What is the most iconic water movie?' There was only one answer and it was Jaws. It was an absolute cinch." METRO WORLD NEWS

Feel like swimming?

15

swimmers took part in the event. Another 25 visitors flanked the pool's balconies to watch Jaws. Previous quirky events at the venue have included a floating orchestra and an underwater art exhibition.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

If sending a tweet is like tossing a pebble into the ocean, then these folks who re-purpose them are the heroes sifting through the silt in search of pebbles they can polish to a shine.

@pentametron:

Backed by an algorithm that searches for tweets in iambic pentameter, Pentametron gives tossed-off thoughts like "You have the morals of an alley cat," a role in a never-ending act about modern life.

@wesingyourtweet:

"You Tweet Them, We Sweet Them' is the motto of two balladeers who lend a beautiful voice to gripes about pet hair, weird Twitter non-sequiturs and life lessons learned.

Illustrated tweet of the day:

A regular feature at HelloGiggles.com offers colourfully drawn musings on topics ranging from Downton Abbey plot points to which dessert would make the best bed.

Comments

RE: How Twitter #Hashtags Are Invading Our Lives, IRL, published March 26

#sotrue I use hashtags online and verbally a lot. Especially to make a point or make a story more entertaining. For example I love to use #awkward, #romance and my all-time favourite #eyeroll!
Jen B posted to metronews.ca

RE: Tory Backbenchers Say They're Muzzled, published March 26

Is this new(s)?
Albert Ormiston posted to metronews.ca

RE: U.S. Bars Test Boundaries of Legal Marijuana, published March 26

I think what Vapor Central, a vapor lounge in Toronto, provides is a very successful model: No alcohol allowed. Like myself, many cannabis users do not drink or want to be around drinking and drunks.
MaryJane Cannabian posted to metronews.ca

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: winnipegletters@metronews.ca

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Max Irons and Saoirse Ronan star in The Host — an alien movie from the Twilight author. ALAN MARKFIELD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Not your typical alien movie

The Host. The latest offering from the Twilight author flips the script on what has been the standard blood bath flick

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

In The Host, the hotly anticipated new film written by Twilight scribe Stephenie Meyer, a parasitic alien is injected into the body of Melanie Stryder, played by Saoirse Ronan.

Sounds grim, but remember, this is from the lady who gave us sparkly vampires and undying love, so the alien inside is kind of a lovesick creature who helps the host body find her loved ones.

That's a lot more benign than other parasitic alien movies.

The most famous alien organism — in the movie Alien, naturally — literally burst on the screen, poking its horrible head through the chest of John Hurt in one of cinema's most indelibly creepy moments.

To get a natural reaction from his actors, director Ridley Scott didn't fully explain what was about to happen as they shot the scene.

"Everyone (on the crew) was wearing raincoats," said Sigourney Weaver. "We should have been a little suspicious."

When the alien came careening out of Hurt's body the actors were genuinely surprised.

Blood oozed all over the set and the shock was so intense it's alleged that Veronica Cartwright passed out and Yaphet Kotto was so freaked out he went to his room and wouldn't talk to anyone.

Much less bloody is The Puppet Masters, which sees the earth invaded by alien "slugs" that piggyback on people's backs, controlling their minds.

Based on the Robert A. Heinlein 1951 novel, the film starred Donald Sutherland, who also appeared in one of the genre's classics, Invasion of the Body Snatchers.

Scary movie

The shock was so intense it's alleged that Veronica Cartwright passed out and Yaphet Kotto was so freaked out he went to his room and wouldn't talk to anyone.

On the unforgettable scene in Alien

The original movie of the story, taken from Jack Finney's classic novel The Body Snatchers, dates from 1956 and has been declared by the Library of Congress as "culturally, historically, or esthetically significant," but it is the Sutherland version, from 1978, that is truly chilling.

The story of alien infiltration — humans are being replaced one by one by emotionless ETs — was called "the best film of its kind ever made" by The New Yorker's Pauline Kael and a movie that "validates the entire concept of remakes," according to Variety.

The strangest movie parasite wasn't an alien, but a bug that feeds on fear.

In the Tingler, these parasites attach themselves to their host's spine and tingle when the host is frightened or scared.

In its original 1959 run it was shown with the Percepto! gimmick that gave some of the theatre seats a small electrical jolt — or tingle — during the movie's climax.

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Being country doesn't mean she can't talk pot

New album. Kacey Musgraves getting praise for a genre busting disc that tackles issues with realistic terms

Self-assured newcomer Kacey Musgraves is on a mission to rewrite the rules in Nashville. GETTY IMAGES

Kacey Musgraves hates the genre column on iTunes. It's the label to end all labels.

The 24-year-old Texas-born singer-songwriter is the focus of Nashville this week as she releases her new album Same Trailer Different Park.

She has two songs in the Top 20 at country radio and is on tour with Kenny Chesney. By the end of that sentence, like iTunes, you probably stamped the word country on her music. That's only partially true. Everybody's finding out there's a lot more to Kacey Musgraves.

"My favourite compliment probably ever is when someone tells me, 'I don't like country music, but I like your music,'" Musgraves said. "It really stokes me out when I hear that. It's cool because I don't want to be defined by the iTunes label. So if I can just make good music that can appeal to a range of people, then I'll be happy."

So far, she's on target. Those songs, Mama's Broken Heart, written for Miranda Lambert, and her own lead single Merry Go 'Round, have stormed right on up the radio airplay charts. Even the media types who often ignore mainstream country music are on board. Rolling Stone's Jody Rosen says in a four-star review, "The album showcases a songwriting voice you won't hear anywhere else in pop: young, female, downwardly mobile, fiercely witty." And Ann Powers of indie rock-focused taste-maker NPR says it unfolds like a novel and considers it a "gift." "Pop desperately needs women artists like Musgraves — women who can tell the stories of their regular sisters and nieces and aunts and uncles and boyfriends in optimistic but realistic terms."

Musgraves sings of small-town lovable losers stuck in a loop on Merry Go 'Round and espouses smoking weed and erasing romantic gender lines in Follow Your Arrow. That's just the start. Musgraves has delivered an album meant to gently, but pointedly, jostle the status quo.

"I would love to change things about country," she said. "I think we need to be a little more accepting. If you listen to every other genre there's no issue talking about pot or homosexuality or atheism or whatever it is. But you move to our genre and you're like X'd if you bring up any of that."

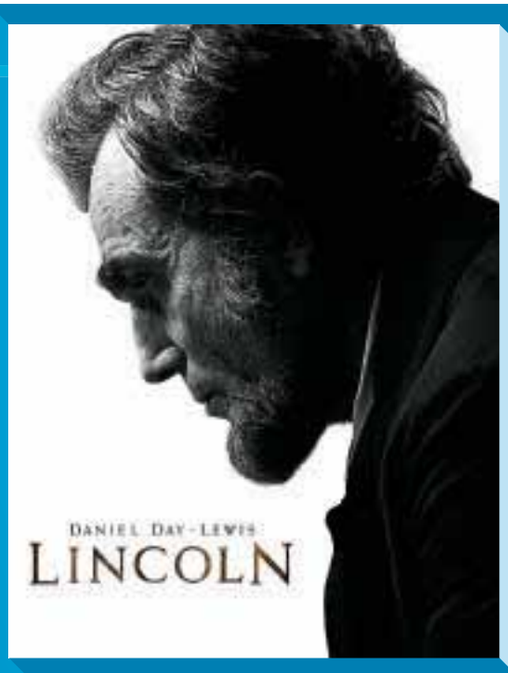
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Album cover

Same Trailer Different Park is the latest album from Kacey Musgraves

- **Odd ball.** The petite brunette showed up to a recent interview at an East Nashville coffeehouse that serves hipsters, without a hint of country in her wardrobe. She then proceeded to do her own hair and makeup for a shoot.

Now playing on Shaw On Demand.



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Urban struggles to keep his fuse lit

New album. His Light the Fuse tour starts mid-summer but not before he lends his voice to American Idol and releases a new CD

Keith Urban has women everywhere hanging on his every word — which is good given that he has a lot to say and do these days. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keith Urban's to-do list goes something like this: Provide the voice of reason on American Idol, choose and record songs for a new album, plan a tour of outdoor venues and arenas that starts this summer, co-ordinate and learn songs for an upcoming fundraiser concert, fly back and forth to London where wife Nicole Kidman is shooting a film, and carve out the right amount of time with his two young daughters.

"There's a lot of creativity happening right now," Urban said in a phone interview Monday.

"I'm also building a studio at my house, just for the heck of it. Why not? Let's do that, too. I had several meetings yesterday on a Sunday with various people, and it was like I'm choosing colour fabrics for something or other and thinking about the song I've got to cut in the studio today. Dear Lord."

American Idol

Urban's not even through his first season on the Fox network singing competition, but he already knows he'd consider doing it again if asked. He's managed to navigate early tensions between fellow judges Mariah Carey and Nicki Minaj, and says he's getting to know the real people behind the on-air personas of his fellow judges, a group that also includes Randy Jackson.

His new album

Urban never set a formal release date, but feels like he's falling behind. He plans lots of guests, so that's slowed things down as he's tried to integrate everyone's schedules. The album's release might not come until late summer.

The Light the Fuse tour, starting July 18

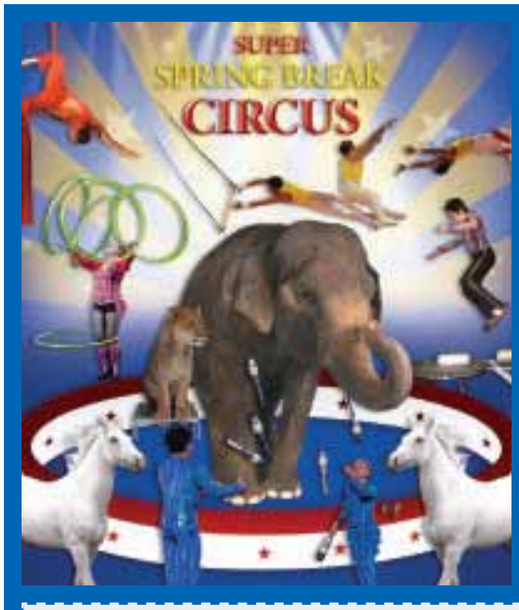
There may be something a little different for those who hit one of his outdoor shows starting this summer, including his first trip to the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles. "There's a chance that we'll start the tour before the album comes out," Urban said. "That's never happened before."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quote

"I had several meetings yesterday on a Sunday with various people, and it was like I'm choosing colour fabrics for something or other and thinking about the song I've got to cut in the studio today. Dear Lord."

Keith Urban
On his busy schedule.



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James Franco lets it spill on Hathaway and Lohan

James Franco insists he and Anne Hathaway have made peace with each other after their disastrous Oscars hosting gig two years ago.

"Anne and I made up, by the way. Let's just get that on the record," Franco told Howard Stern during an interview.

"It was a really hard time after the Oscars. She wasn't mad at me, I don't think. She didn't say she was mad at me for what happened. The critics were so nasty."

The Spring Breakers star also addressed a rumour that he'd turned down an offer to sleep with Lindsay Lohan.

"I don't want to, like, brag about it. I don't know how that got out," Franco said.

Not trying to kiss and tell

"I don't want to, like, brag about it. I don't know how that got out."

James Franco
Speaking about Lindsay Lohan asking him to have sex with her.

James Franco.
ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

"She was having issues even then, so you feel weird. Honestly, she was a friend. I've met a lot of people that are troubled, and sometimes you don't want to do that."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Chris Brown trying to nurse his public black eye

THE WORD
Meredith Engel
scene@metronews.ca

Chris Brown was PR coached within an inch of his life before appearing on On Air With Ryan Seacrest yesterday.

How do we know?

The singer said everything that everyone wants him to say about his brutal assault of girlfriend Rihanna four years ago.

"I just tried my best to be the best man I could be over the years and just show her how remorseful and sorry I was for the incident and that time was probably the worst part of my life and being that she has and she's a wonderful person I'm eternally grateful and thankful," he said about trying to make amends with her and the world.

And as for the backlash that the two are back together?

"People are entitled to their opinions. I can't go around blaming. It's all about my responsibility and me growing up as a man," he said. "So I think now that I'm becoming older, and trying to mature in this life under the public eye at all times, I have to focus on doing the right thing and being more of a humble individual."

Liam Hemsworth and Miley Cyrus

Cyrus and Hemsworth still working out their problems

Miley Cyrus and fiancé Liam Hemsworth are reunited after his four-week visit to his native Australia, and all the speculation about their relationship status "has caused a lot of stress" for them, according to E! News.

"There are some serious problems going on, but seeing them together, they do genuinely love each other and they really do want to work it out," a source says of the ordeal.

"His trip to Australia was a way for them to figure out what they wanted to do and have time to think for themselves."

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5 Free things to do when in Amsterdam

Most of downtown Amsterdam looks like one huge open-air museum and strolling its streets costs you nothing. Renting a bike is not free, but if you want to go native, it's the only way to travel. Just watch out for the traffic and tram rails.

PHOTOS AND STORY: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The canals

Amsterdam's canals are 400 years old this year, but strolling along the waterways never gets old. The scenery includes Golden Age mansions dating to the 17th century, converted warehouses and narrow buildings that sometimes look like they're ready to topple over sideways. The ring of canals starts with the Singel, which boasts a floating flower market. Then come the Herengracht, Keizersgracht and finally the Prinsengracht. Once you've worked up a thirst pounding the cobbled sidewalks, stop off for a drink in one of the "brown cafés" — small bars named for their dark wooden interiors — along the canals or in the web of narrow alleys that interconnect them. If you visit the Red Light District (and most tourists do), you'll discover that it's also built around two historic canals.

Begijnhof

The clatter of trams and ringing of bicycle bells can be an assault on the ears, but there's a hidden oasis of peace in the heart of Amsterdam if you need a little quiet time. The Begijnhof is a small grassed courtyard surrounded by beautiful 17th- and 18th-century houses that were originally built for pious Catholic single women. It's right in the middle of town and reachable by a gateway at the end of a lane leading off one of the city's busiest shopping streets, but it is almost eerily silent. The courtyard also holds a small English Reformed Church and a Catholic chapel. If you don't manage to get into the Rijksmuseum to see Rembrandt's Night Watch, right around the corner from the Begijnhof is another hidden (and free) gem of the city, the Schuttersgalerij, or Civil Guard Gallery, of the Amsterdam Museum.

Vondelpark

The city's most famous park is just a stone's throw from Museum Square and a great place for a picnic. The 116-acre park (47 hectares) has ponds, tree-lined pathways, kids' playgrounds, an open-air theatre and cafés. You can rent inline skates, but it's mainly just a great place to lay down a blanket and sit for an hour or two watching the world go by. Look out for the Picasso sculpture of a fish in one of its meadows.

Eye

One of Amsterdam's newest landmarks is a stark, white film institute, called the EYE, perched on the northern bank of the Ij waterway. While you have to pay to take in a movie, the café and its terrace are open to all who are prepared to buy a cup of coffee or light meal and offer a front-row seat to watch barges chug along the Ij against a backdrop of the city skyline. Remember that Amsterdam, at its heart, is a busy port. Getting there is another of the city's unsung pleasures — you squeeze onto a free commuter ferry usually crammed with cyclists from behind Central Station.

Markets

Amsterdam's wealth began in its port with the merchants who bought and sold everything from tulip bulbs to spices from the East Indies. A little of that mercantile past can still be seen at the city's many markets. The most famous is the Albert Cuyp food market in the Pijp neighbourhood, which sells, as the city website puts it, everything from cheese to bicycle chains, six days a week. The prettiest is the Noordermarkt, a sort of grower's market that sets up each Saturday outside the historic Noorderkerk church, next to the Prinsengracht canal. The best flea market is at Waterloo Square every day except Sunday close to the Amstel River.

A few pre-emptive steps can lessen the chances your suitcase ends up in Borneo while you're waiting in Hawaii.
ISTOCK

Don't languish over lost luggage

Trip tips. Losing a suitcase is a worst-case travel scenario, but you can lessen the chances your bag ends up in limbo

ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

A couple of years ago while travelling to attend a conference in Barcelona, the airline lost my luggage. To add to the pain, my seat mate on the plane accidentally dropped a bowl of cereal in my lap. Arriving in wet, dirty clothes with nothing to wear was a less than pleasant experience.

Unfortunately there is nothing you can do to guarantee that your luggage makes the trip but there are a few ways to minimize the risk and the potential pain.

If it's convenient to your travels, choose an airline that has a good track record in ensuring on-time arrivals of baggage. There are several websites, like dot.gov/aircon-sumer, which will give you the latest statistics on how major carriers perform in this area.

When booking a flight try to make it's a direct one. The more changes, the greater the chance you or your bags could miss a connection.

Remove all old luggage tags from your suitcase before you arrive at the airport.

Label the bag inside and out with your contact information. By putting an address on the inside it ensures you can be reached even if your tags get ripped off. Use a work address versus your home address so any potential thieves looking for houses to target come up empty handed.

Put important items such as medications and valuables in your carry on. You will not be reimbursed for all the items in a lost piece of luggage. Airlines have a maximum that they will pay per piece of luggage, regardless of the contents.

When it comes time to fly, don't check in late. Adhere to the schedule guidelines provided by the airlines. If you are running to make a flight so is your bag.

Don't forget to hang on to your baggage claim ticket as you will definitely need it should your bag go missing.

Finally, if you are travelling with someone else consider putting a change of clothes in their suitcase. So, if you are like me and crying over spilled milk ... in your lap, you will at least have something to change into.

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Does social media really matter?

What's it to you? It's been hyped, criticized and dissected to death. So is it worth all the fuss?

JELEEN YU
TalentEgg.ca

Social media has been hailed almost unanimously as a revolutionary tool for business, and for good reason. But there's one question that has hounded it since it first came into the picture: Does social media have any "real" worth?

Yes, very much so, according to Toan Dinh, director of marketing and solutions for corporate disclosure filings research provider DisclosureNet. "Although I think it's true that many businesses still think that social media isn't a true driver of key results, I've come to know many organizations that do embrace social media as an essential part of their marketing pillars."

Return on investment

"When social media delivers results, it is one of the highest ROI strategies in the digital marketing portfolio."

Toan Dinh
Director of marketing and solutions

Social media's results "speak for themselves"

The root cause of doubt, he says, is the common perception that social media is simply a short-term marketing strategy. "Many companies are still testing the ideas of social media and haven't come to a conclusion yet. They often give up too early on social media, or that they have unrealistic expectations of how long it takes for social media to reach 'critical mass'," he explains.

Still, whether or not naysayers believe social media management to be a "real" job, Dinh believes the results speak for themselves. Having had extensive experience in hiring for digital marketing positions, he says that, in many companies, the social media team doesn't merely consist of one manager, but a whole team of social media specialists executing campaigns on a daily basis. He notes, "When social media delivers results, it is one of the highest ROI strategies in the digital marketing portfolio."

It also helps that social media metrics have progressed by leaps and bounds in recent years, giving a sense of tangibility to reports on its effectiveness. Ryerson University's Ted Rogers School of Management professor Dr. Donna Smith notes that while social media research isn't really indicative of consumer purchase behaviour, it is much more refined than it used to be. "There are now sophisticated programs that have the ability to crawl the web for information. Marketers can monitor the strength of sentiment of a brand (on a scale of one to five), consumer behaviour and other factors by analyzing social media chatter or channel usage," she says.

Social media is here to stay, especially when it comes to marketing. ISTOCK

TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

Hero of the hashtag

Pursue a communications-type marketing position even if social media roles aren't immediately available. This can open the door to full-time work when the company wants to take their marketing strategy to the next level. ISTOCK

The keyboard calls to you. Interested in a social media career? Here's some #AwesomeAdvice

JELEEN YU
TalentEgg.ca

If you're looking toward a career in social media management, it's best to start building your bridges as early as you can.

"A digital marketing background is a great place to start," says Ryerson University professor Dr. Donna Smith.

Adapting to the fast-paced, demanding and ever-changing environment of social media, marketing & solutions director Toan Dinh adds, is another thing that all potential candidates have to face. Want to get a head start on a social media management career?

Do your homework

Find ways to learn more about marketing strategies in your industry of choice

- Read books, articles and reports that explain how social media fits into corporate marketing strategies, or pick the brains of people in the know, like professionals or university instructors.

Here are Toan's suggestions for greatness:

Strengthen your communication skills (formally and informally)

As an official representative of a brand, a social media manager has to have clarity, accuracy and tact in communicating with customers, co-workers and the media. Focus on learning to say more with less.

Build your own personal social media channels so that you can be immersed in the industry while looking for that next opportunity

Meeting the top players before you even enter the field shows you're serious about forging a career path in the industry. Create strong connections by expressing a sincere, earnest and can-do attitude and you'll have better chances of getting your foot in the door.

Volunteer for non-profit organizations that provide social media management opportunities

Apart from gaining valuable networking opportunities and offering your time to a worthy cause, volunteering as a social media manager will give you a feel for how the job actually works, without any pressure.

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HOPE IN ACTION

Instagroan: Please pause before you post

Twits not welcome.
A recruiter reminds us how to easily avoid a social media mess

ASHLEIGH TRAHAN
TalentEgg.ca

Before you post that picture of yourself doing body shots during your Cancun spring break, I would like to offer you some friendly advice on how potential employers might interpret your online behaviour.

You need to make sure that you are projecting the best possible image to future employers, in case anyone who's thinking about hiring you takes a quick second to Google your name. People will be assessing what you've posted to see if there are any photos, videos or all caps irrational ranting that raises a red flag about your judgment, awareness or intelligence.

A few common sense tips can ensure that you come across as employable:

Lock it down

The first and most important commandment of personal social media management is understanding who you are sharing your personal information with. Assume that anyone and everyone will see your LinkedIn and Twitter accounts, and act accordingly.

If you choose add your professional contacts to Facebook, you can either keeps thing PG or change your security settings to only allow certain posts to be visible to your professional network.

Everyone lets their hair down once in a while, just have the good sense not to share evidence of the crazier times with the entire world. ISTOCK

This involves a certain degree of common sense. Every industry is different in terms of their tolerance for your shenanigans via social media. For example, if you work at a creative start-up company, your boss's views on your mid-workday posts of cat memes will be different than if you work at a Bay Street law firm. Investigate how your peers or colleagues are using social media, and follow their lead.

Think before you tweet ... about how bad your job is

I've seen far too many catastrophes caused by careless tweets. We've all witnessed heat of the moment tweets about someone's failing love life and epic drinking plans (please, spare us), but I especially urge caution when it comes to social posts about your job.

It only takes one tweet along the lines of "This job is **** and everyone here is a *****" to get you fired.

The same applies if you decide to resign. Take a moment to reflect on how rejoicing publicly about your departure from your current boss, job or co-workers could appear. Perhaps your boss is in fact an evil fascist, and maybe your co-workers do give new meaning to the word psycho, but griping about work is never a good idea. Regardless of the situation, it can make you look like a whiner and/or jerk.

Nothing nice to say?

"Perhaps your boss is in fact an evil fascist, and maybe your co-workers do give new meaning to the word psycho, but griping about work is never a good idea. Regardless of the situation, it can make you look like a whiner and/or jerk."

Ashleigh Trahan
Recruitment Consultant

Be truthful and consistent

Now that your social profiles (especially LinkedIn) are out there for anyone and everyone to see, you need to ensure you are telling a truthful, consistent story about yourself.

If your LinkedIn profile doesn't match up to your resumé, that will raise red flags and will quickly torpedo potential opportunities. Take the same care in putting together an online profile as you would your resumé.

@ChangeYourName

Ditch the cheesy Twitter handle

- You should be showcasing the best possible image to potential employers and @lovemonkey1990 is sending all the wrong messages.
- Sticking to your name is safest, but if you choose to use a nickname, make it something that wouldn't make your Grandma blush.

Maintain your personality and use it to your professional advantage

While you might think I would advocate for being a passionless yuppie robot on your social media profiles, that's not the case. Having a life outside of work makes you an interesting, well-rounded person, so maintain your unique qualities and pursuits in full view (as long as your pursuits are of the legal variety).

Remember to take the time to post updates about news and trends related to your industry. This will work to your advantage by showcasing your knowledge and interest in your field to potential employers.

ASHLEY TRAHAN IS A TORONTO-BASED RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT. TALENTEGG.CA IS CANADA'S LEADING JOB SITE AND ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADUATES.

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Cutting the kids off no longer computes

Let's talk about tech.
A frank discussion about privacy and posts will resonate with your student more than a strict, no-Internet sentence

After Friendster came MySpace. By the time Facebook dominated social media, parents had joined the party, too. But the online scene has changed — dramatically, as it turns out — and these days even if you're friends with your own kids on Facebook, it doesn't mean you know what they're doing.

Thousands of software programs now offer cool new ways to chat and swap pictures. The most popular apps turn a hum-drum snapshot into artistic photography or broadcast your location to friends in case they want to meet you. Kids who use them don't need a credit card or even a cellphone, just an Internet connection and device such as an iPod Touch or Kindle Fire.

Does Junior know?

- Online services routinely collect personal data, such as a person's birth date or the location of their phone, and they commonly share the information with third parties for marketing.

Parents who want to keep up with the curve should stop thinking in terms of imposing time limits or banning social media services, which are stopgap measures. Experts say it's time to talk frankly to kids about privacy controls and remind them — again — how nothing in cyberspace every really goes away, even when software companies promise it does.

"What sex education used to be, it's now the 'technology talk' we have to have with our kids," said Rebecca Levey, a mother of 10-year-old twin daughters who runs a tween video review site called KidzVuz.com and blogs about technology and educations issues.

Rebecca Levey, mother of 10-year-old twin girls, feels that children need to understand the pitfalls of carelessly sharing personal information online.
KATHY WILLENS / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

More than three-fourths of teenagers have a cellphone and use online social networking sites such as Facebook, according to the Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project. But Facebook for teens has become a bit like a school-sanctioned prom — a rite of passage with plenty of adult chaperones — while newer apps such as Snapchat and Kik Messenger are the much cooler after-party.

The Net and the bees

"What sex education used to be, it's now the 'technology talk' we have to have with our kids."
Rebecca Levey
KidzVuz.com

Even Facebook acknowledged in a recent regulatory filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission that it was losing younger users: "We believe that some of our users, particularly our younger users, are aware of and actively engaging with other products and services similar to, or as a substitute for, Facebook," the company warned investors in February.

Parents often hand their kids a mobile device without understanding exactly what it can do, said Dale Harkness, a technology director at Richmond-Burton Community High School in Richmond, Ill. He estimates that even without using social media services, the average high school student probably transmits some 150 texts a day.

"It's not anything that every parent and grandparent hasn't already seen," Harkness said. The problem, he adds, is that actions "get documented, replayed and sent around." He said that students "forget how fast it moves and how far it goes."

Levey links her kids' devices to her iTunes account so she's aware of programs they install. She also requires that her kids make their accounts accessible to her and follow certain ground rules: protect your passwords, set privacy controls and never transmit inappropriate pictures or words.

A big hurdle for parents is overcoming the idea they are invading their kids' privacy by monitoring online activity, she said. In fact, she said, it can be the kid's first lesson that hardly anything online is private, anyway.

"If they want privacy," she said, "they should write in a journal and hide it under their mattress."

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Heel the world, make it a comfier place

Protect your pads. Your tootsies may be in trouble. Footing the bill for new work shoes could lessen a lifetime of problems

Construction workers, police officers, teachers and nurses have very different careers, but Canadians working in these occupations have one thing in common — an increased risk of a disabling foot injury.

"Long periods of standing on the job can cause muscle and ligament fatigue, which increases the risk of injury to the feet. These risks are even higher if you wear ill-fitting or unsupportive footwear, repeat the same action over and over or have improper foot alignment," says Ryan Robinson, a Canadian Certified Pedorthist and president of the Pedorthic Association of Canada.

Ouch at the office

"Long periods of standing on the job can cause muscle and ligament fatigue which increases the risk of injury to the feet."

Ryan Robinson
Canadian Certified Pedorthist

"The resulting inflammation and abnormal wear and tear can lead to serious and painful foot and leg conditions and reduced mobility."

Although Canadians working in jobs that require lengthy periods of standing can rarely change the amount of time they spend on their feet, they can take precautions to reduce the likelihood of injury.

One of the best defences is purchasing professionally fitted, supportive footwear, Robinson points out. Whether the job requires safety boots or dress shoes, purchasing correct fitting footwear with maximum support will dramatically decrease the likelihood of an injury occurring.

Pedorthists often create custom orthotics for patients who experience problems due to the high demand their career has put on their feet and legs. Custom orthotics, says Robinson, serve to properly align and cushion the patient's feet and lower limbs while making their day-to-day activities more comfortable.

If your workplace demands are causing problems for your feet and legs, ask your doctor about a referral to a Canadian Certified Pedorthist to see how they can help you move through your working day with less pain.

NEWS CANADA

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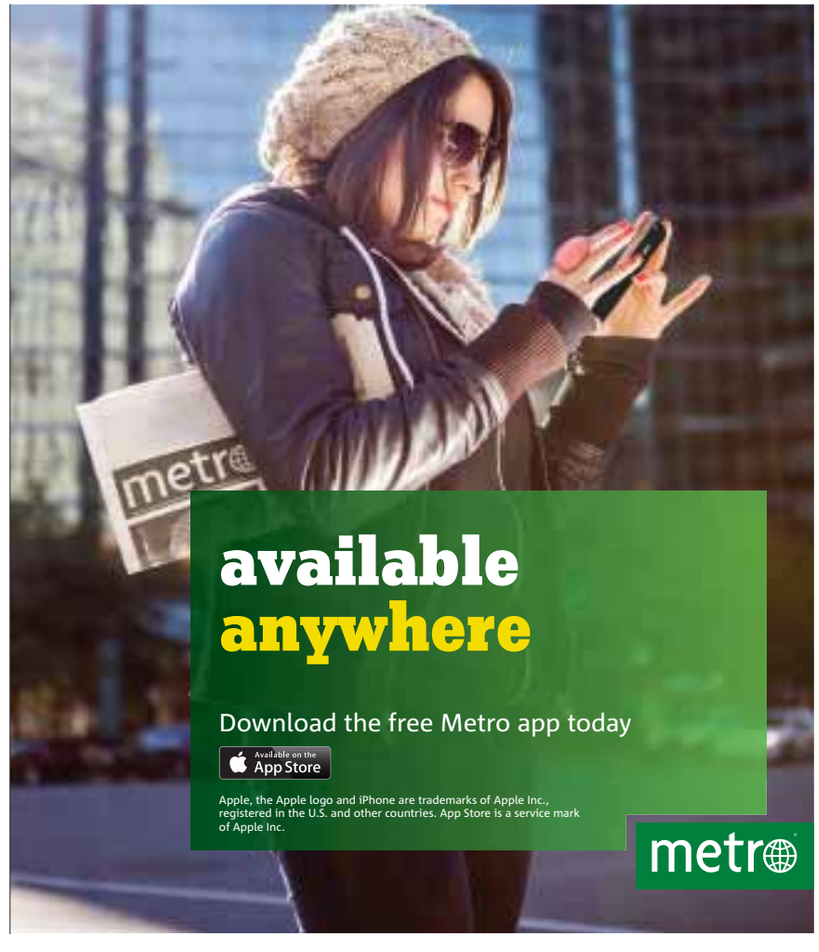

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metro

Find the right value

Before you sell.
Have your precious items appraised by a professional

KRISTA SYLVESTER
For Metro

One person's garbage is another person's treasure and the same can be said for certain types of gold and silver jewelry.

Some gold and silver items are worth more to some buyers for their collectible value rather than simply the "melt" value of their gold content, according to Canada Gold Vancouver regional development manager Gregory Neilson. That's why some sellers should consider selling privately.

"These might include items such as quality, undamaged fashionable jewelry or rare collectible coins," he says. "It wouldn't make sense to sell these kinds of items to a typical cash-for-gold buyer, as they only pay for the precious metal content."

Certified funds

"People should make sure to do their homework and never part with their items before receiving all of the money from the buyer in certified funds."
Gregory Neilson, Canada Gold Vancouver regional development manager

Industry experts suggest that before selling these items, people should know for certain what type of precious metals they have, how much it weighs and the purity of the gold and details about any gemstones that may be included. The best course of action is to have the item professionally appraised so the buyer can access the details.

Neilson says the best place to sell these specific types of items for the most money would be websites like Craigslist, eBay or Kijiji, but he warns there are some risks involved in selling online.

"People should make sure to do their homework and never part with their items before receiving all of the money from the buyer in certified funds."

The second choice might be to sell the items through a consignment shop. While there will be less risk and less work on the part of the seller, they generally have to give up at least 20 per cent of the value as commission to the consignor, and sometimes up to 40 per cent.

"There are many good consignment shops in cities all across Canada and even some online," Neilson says.

Many experts caution against selling at pawn shops though, unless the seller is willing to take a small fraction of the item's value. If there is an emergency and you need to sell the item fast, there are ways to sell faster online such as "Buy it Now" or sell the jewelry auction style.

Before selling your jewelry, have it professionally appraised. JUPITERIMAGES/BANANASTOCK/THINKSTOCK

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COLLECTIBLES CANADA

Not just a drop in the bucket

Gold and silver aren't the only type of coins worth money — speciality coin collections have value, too.

Jack Jensen, manager of West Edmonton Coin & Stamp, says there are two types of coin options — one is the type of coin people buy for investment purposes (gold and silver bullion), and the second is coins that people collect for hobby, including special sets and limited editions.

"People still collect coins, and it's actually a pretty popular hobby," Jensen says. "And there are a lot of new collectors popping up all the time. We get the kids coming in here and they are interested in some of the new coins coming out."

Jensen says pennies are starting to become the new thing people want to collect since distribution of the country's smallest denomination was phased out in February, but he says it will be awhile before they are worth anything.

Royal Canadian Mint spokesperson Alex Reeves says it's the first time a denomination has been taken out of production in Canada.

"They're still in circulation though, so a penny is still worth a penny," Reeves says.

Coin collecting is a popular hobby again since there are a variety of options from which to choose. BRAND X PICTURES/THINKSTOCK

"But, eventually, they will wind down. Some people collect for sentimental reasons like different years that are special to them. I know some people are donating to penny drives and some people are probably taking their pennies into the banks. There's a variety of things people are doing with their pennies."

Reeves says one reason why coin collecting is becoming popular again is because of the variety and expansion of options from which people can choose.

"Our collection has really grown substantially since the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, mostly due to expanding of themes and celebrating milestones in Canada. We have really worked towards broadening our appeal."

KRISTA SYLVESTER

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Lighten up Passover with simple and tasty Mandelbrot (Biscotti)

This recipe makes 18 pieces. COURTESY OF ROSE REISMAN

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These biscotti are phenomenal, not to mention very simple, by just using matzo cake meal and potato starch. Be sure not to use just Matzo meal.

1. Combine eggs, sugar, vanilla and oil. Add remaining ingredients (except for chocolate drizzle) and mix until well combined.

2. Form into one log and place on baking sheet lined with foil and sprayed with vegetable oil.

3. Bake at 350 F, 30 minutes.

4. Lower oven to 300 F, let cookies cool for 15 minutes, then sliced into 1-inch biscotti, lay on side, and bake another 35 minutes.

5. Drizzle: Melt chocolate and oil in microwave for 2 minutes on defrost or until chocolate begins to melt. Whisk until smooth and drizzle over biscotti.

Ingredients

- 2 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/3 cup oil
- 1 1/3 cups matzo cake meal
- 1/3 cup potato starch
- 3/4 cup semi sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup toasted chopped pecans

Chocolate drizzle

- 3 tbsp semi sweet chocolate chips
- 1 tsp oil

Passover Food Facts

Here's some food info about the holiday commemorating the Exodus, the liberation of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt in the time of Moses.

- **Yeast.** Food that contains yeast is prohibited during Passover.
- **Matzo.** Unleavened bread is a central feature of the festival. In addition, all leaven must also be removed from the house during Passover, a symbolic way of removing the "puffiness" (pride) from one's soul. Leaven includes anything made from the five major grains completely cooked within 18 minutes after coming into contact with water.

Reader's note

Not all Passover traditions are the same, so the dishes on this page may not meet all dietary requirements or restrictions.
METRO

Low fat, high flavour Matzo Ball Vegetable Soup for spring

1. Matzo balls: In bowl stir matzo meal, salt and baking powder. Add egg whites, vegetable oil and chicken broth, then stir until well combined. Cover and chill for 30 minutes.

2. While matzo mix cools, prepare vegetables. If using fava beans, in large saucepan bring 1 quart of salted water to a boil over high heat. Add shelled fava beans and blanch 1 minute. Use slotted spoon to transfer to a bowl of ice water to cool. When cool enough to handle, gently peel the skins from beans. If using lima beans, this step can be skipped.

3. Trim off and discard green parts of leeks, leaving 5 inches. Cut white part in half lengthwise, slice into 1-inch pieces (about 3 1/2 cups). Rinse well and pat them dry. Cut asparagus crosswise into 1-inch pieces.

4. In saucepan over medium, heat oil. Reduce heat to medium-low, add leeks and cook, stirring occasionally 5 minutes, or until softened. Add asparagus and mushrooms to leek mix and cook, stirring occasionally, 4 minutes, or until almost tender. Transfer vegetables to a bowl and set aside.

5. Return the saucepan to the stovetop over medium-high heat. Add the chicken broth and bring it to a boil. Shape the chilled matzo batter into 16 balls and add them to the broth. Reduce the heat to simmer, cover and cook for 55 to 60 minutes, or until the matzo balls are tender.

6. Add the vegetable mixture to the chicken stock and matzo balls, along with the fava beans and peas and simmer until heated through. If using defrosted frozen lima beans, add them first to the soup and let them simmer for 5 minutes or until tender, then add the other vegetables. Season with salt and pepper to taste, ladle into bowls and garnish with chopped fresh dill.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.

This recipe serves eight. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

Matzo balls

- 3/4 cup matzo meal
- 1/4 tsp kosher salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 6 large egg whites, lightly beaten
- 3 tbsp vegetable oil
- 3 tbsp low-sodium chicken broth

Soup

- 1/2 lb shelled fresh fava beans or shelled fresh lima beans, or a combination
- 3 medium leeks
- 1/2 lb asparagus, tough ends discarded
- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1/2 lb small mushrooms, trimmed and quartered
- 10 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup green peas
- Kosher salt and black pepper
- Chopped fresh dill, garnish

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4 SPORTS

MLB

Romero to start season in Florida

Ricky Romero's encouraging start Tuesday was not enough to make up for a rocky pre-season.

The Toronto Blue Jays announced that the left-hander has been optioned to single-A Dunedin of the Florida State League.

The move came shortly after Romero picked up the win in Toronto's 6-3 victory over Pittsburgh. It was considered a make-or-break start for Romero, who had a decent outing but didn't do enough to make up for his spring struggles.

Blue Jays general manager Alex Anthopoulos said the left-hander simply ran out of time to make him as good as he should be to be part of the club's rotation.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

UFC

Diaz disputes weigh-in, wants rematch with GSP

Nick Diaz's camp is alleging improprieties surrounding the UFC 158 weigh-in and drug testing.

The California welterweight lost a five-round decision to champion Georges St-Pierre on March 16 at Montreal's Bell Centre.

Since then, a video shot backstage at the weigh-in has raised questions about the Quebec athletic commission (Regie des Alcools des Courses et des Jeux), showing that it treats 170.9 pounds the same as 170.

Diaz was announced at 169 pounds at the weigh-in while St-Pierre was 170 — the welterweight limit.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jets goalie Andrej Pavelec stops a shot by Hurricanes forward Jiri Tlusty on Tuesday night in Raliegh, N.C. KARL B DEBLAKER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kane instrumental in crushing Canes

NHL. Jets move past embarrassing outings against Caps with second straight victory

On Tuesday

Jets	Hurricanes
4	1

The Winnipeg Jets have put last week's two-game debacle against the Washington Capitals firmly behind them.

Evander Kane had a goal and three assists to lead Winnipeg to a 4-1 win over the Carolina Hurricanes on Tuesday.

The Jets earned their 10th road victory of the season and increased their division lead to six points over Carolina.

"We're trying to forget about that Washington miniseries as much as possible," Kane said of the 4-0 and 6-1 defeats on consecutive nights.

"I think we've responded here in these last two games real well. We knew we couldn't dwell on what happened with Washington and we needed to move on and move forward."

The win over the Hurricanes, which came on the heels of a 3-2 home victory over Tampa Bay on Sunday, is the first of a stretch in which the Jets play five of six on the road.

"We knew the implications going in," Kane said. "It was a big game for both teams, but it's not going to be the last one, that's for sure."

Kane assisted Olli Jokinen's goal in the first period and goals by Tobias Enstrom and Alexander Burmistrov in the second. Kane was credited with a third-period goal when Carolina defenceman Jamie McBain swatted at the puck and knocked it into the net past Justin Peters.

Ondrej Pavelec had 38 saves for Winnipeg.

"They had some chances," Pavelec said. "I think they played really well. They did a great job getting traffic in front of me. Sometimes it goes this way."

Jiri Tlusty scored his 14th of the season for Carolina, which is on an 0-5-1 slide that includes three consecutive 4-1 losses at home.

Peters, making the start after injuries to Cam Ward on March 3 and Dan Ellis on Thursday, made 31 saves for the Hurricanes.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wayne Fleming GETTY IMAGES FILE

Longtime NHL assistant from Winnipeg dies of brain cancer

Longtime NHL and former Calgary Flames assistant coach Wayne Fleming has died at age 62 after a battle with brain cancer.

Fleming's career in the NHL spanned 14 seasons with the New York Islanders, Phoenix Coyotes, Philadelphia Flyers, Calgary Flames, Edmonton Oilers and Tampa Bay Lightning.

"Thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Fleming family," tweeted Lightning star Steven Stamkos.

Fleming also coached internationally, including stints as head coach of Leksand in Sweden, EV Landshut in Germany and Avangard Omsk in Russia.

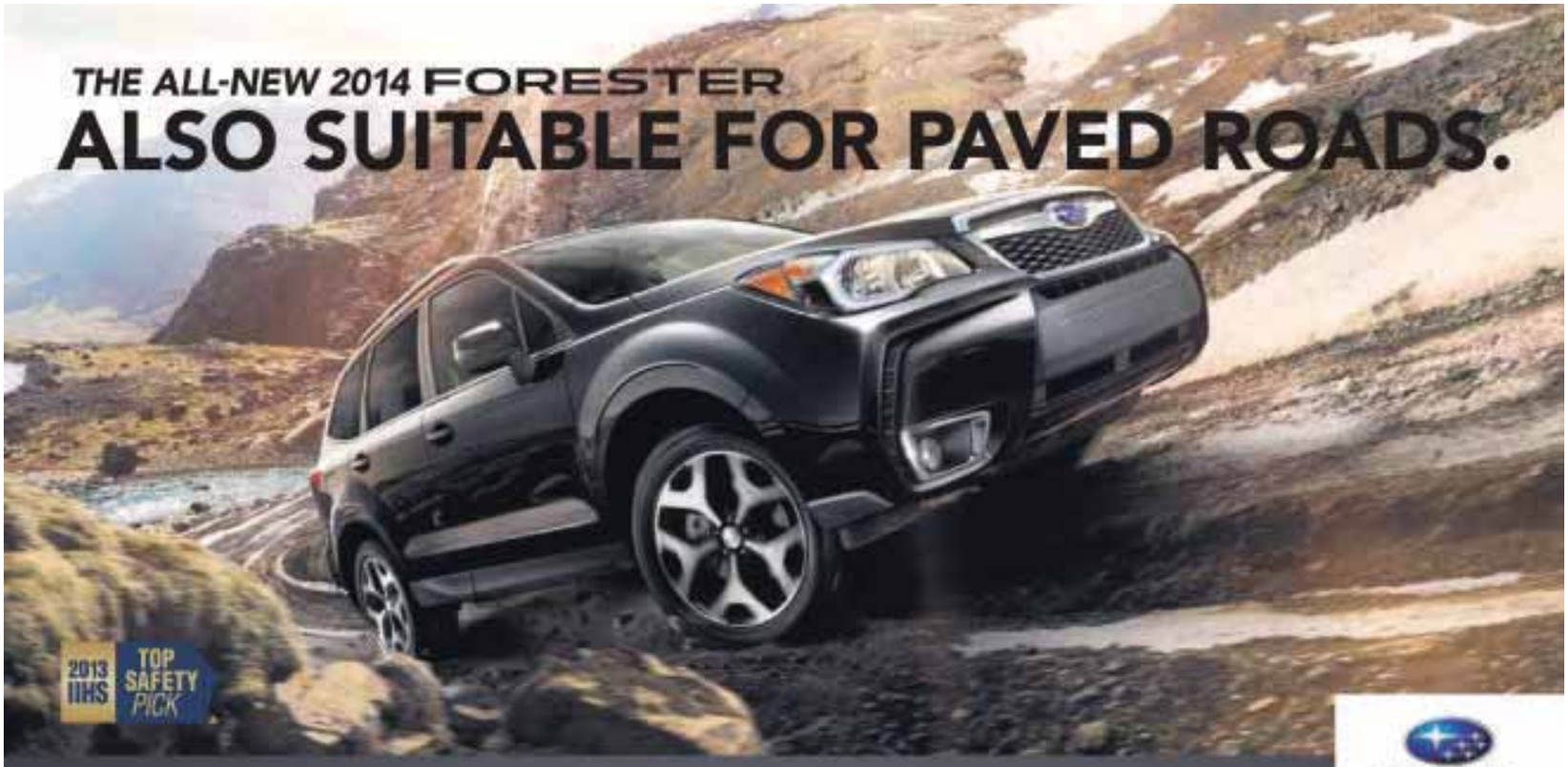
The Winnipeg native was part of three Olympic coaching staffs for Canada, winning a silver medal in Albertville in 1992 and a gold medal in Salt Lake City in 2002.

Fleming was an assistant coach with the Flames from 2006-08 before serving as head coach of Omsk in 2008-09.

"The hockey community has lost a wonderful family member today with the passing of Wayne Fleming," Flames president and CEO Ken King said in a statement. "Wayne was a great coach, a tremendous family man and friend to us all."

Canadian women's star Hayley Wickenheiser called Fleming "one of the great contributors to Canadian Hockey and a wonderful man."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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*Ratings of "Good" are the highest rating awarded for performance in four safety tests (moderate overlap front, side, rollover and rear) conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS)(www.iihs.org). To earn a 2013 TOP SAFETY PICK, a vehicle must receive a "Good" rating in all four of these tests. *MSRP of $25,995 on 2014 Forester 2.5i (EJ130). MSRP excludes Freight & PDI of $1,595. Taxes, license, registration and insurance are extra. $0 security deposit. Model shown is 2014 Forester 2.0XT Limited Package (EJ2 XTL) with an MSRP of $35,495. †Power rear gate: Available on 2.5i Touring, 2.5i Limited and 2.0XT Limited models only. ‡X-MODE™: Equipped in CVT models only. Dealers may sell for less or may have to order or trade. Offers applicable on approved credit at participating dealers only. Vehicle shown solely for purposes of illustration, and may not be equipped exactly as shown. See you local Subaru dealer for complete program details.

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Nothing old-fashioned about new Jeep

ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE

2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee

- **Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 3.6-litre DOHC V6 (290); 5.7-litre OHV V8 (370); 3.0-litre DOHC V6 turbo-diesel (240)
- **Transmissions.** Eight-speed automatic
- **Base price (including destination).** $41,600

4X4

The Grand Cherokee continues with three different 4x4 systems: single-speed Quadra-Trac I; Quadra-Trac II with a two-speed transfer case (low range for severe off-roading); and Quadra-Drive II that can direct torque to a single tire instead of just front to back.

Engine

For 2014 an all-new V6 turbo-diesel comes on-stream. Although it has the same 3.0-litre displacement offered on the 2007/08 GC (that was sourced from Mercedes-Benz), the new version is built by an Italian supplier, which is understandable given Fiat's dominating control of Chrysler. Its 240 horsepower and 420 pound-feet of torque trump the previous 215/376 ratings.

Jeep is reinforcing its new cleaned-up turbo-diesel by labelling it the "EcoDiesel." Maintaining its clean bill of health involves the injection of a substance known as urea into a chamber just ahead of the muffler. The organic-based compound reacts with and neutralizes the engine's nitrogen oxide gasses. It then burns off the remaining soot and expels what little is left. The 30-litre urea reservoir should last for about 16,000 kilometres before requiring a $50 to $60 top-up.

Transmission

The other component added to the EcoDiesel mix is an eight-speed automatic transmission. In fact, all Grand Cherokee power plants will be connected to the new gear changer. Jeep says it provides quicker acceleration, smoother shifting and improved fuel economy. The rear-wheel-drive EcoDiesel GC is rated at 10.3 l/100 km city and 7.1 highway. By comparison, the base gasoline 3.6 earns a 12.3/7.9 rating.

Review. Is it a case of 'adapt or die,' or is it just along for a high-tech ride?

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

Sport utility vehicles might be fading from the automotive landscape, but at least a couple of Chrysler's Jeep-branded models tenaciously hold firm to the go-anywhere concept.

Of course Jeep's warrior-inspired Wrangler is the group's undisputed icon, but there's certainly nothing old-fashioned about the updated Grand Cherokee that's now rolling off the assembly lines. The new 2014 model shows a freshly scrubbed face plus some major adjustments under the hood.

The current-generation GC that arrived for the 2010 model year was a hit right out of the gate with stylish looks, sure-footed suspension and a smooth-running 290-horsepower V6 engine. The 360- and 470-horsepower "Hemi" V8 options (the latter attached to the super-swift SRT model) have added considerable performance luster to the lineup, but it's the fuel-efficient V6 that has contributed the most to the GC's continuing popularity.

Opting for the EcoDiesel adds $5,000 to the $56,600 price tag of the Grand Cherokee Overland (the base 3.6 Laredo starts at $41,600). Factor in the extra cost of diesel fuel, and the EcoDiesel upgrade doesn't seem quite so tempting.

But the 3,265-kilogram tow rating matches the 5.7-litre V8's while providing a 550-kilogram advantage over the gas V6 models. And the estimated 1,170 maximum cruising range might persuade buyers to seriously consider the extra expenditure.

Returning is Jeep's available air suspension with five separate height settings, along with Selec-Terrain that allows the driver to adjust the 4x4 and height/transmission settings for sand, mud, snow, rock or sport. The latter reduces the degree of traction control, lowers the ride height and directs extra torque to the rear wheels.

The physical improvements and expanded engine lineup make the Grand Cherokee a more complete package and an exemplary member of the dwindling sport ute fraternity.

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Parking meters are a window into the soul

Auto Pilot. What your parking meter usage reveals about you

AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

A parking meter is not just a device to pay for street parking. How a person uses or doesn't use a parking meter says a lot about them.

If you find yourself drunk and sawing the heads off parking meters, like Paul Newman's character did in the movie Cool Hand Luke, it probably says you should back off the booze a bit.

Otherwise, it might be about how much risk you're willing to take. My friend Bob and I usually take turns driving to our downtown badminton club. There's pay-enforced street parking until 9 p.m. If he drives and it's 8:45 p.m., he doesn't think twice about rolling the dice with the parking meter police.

When I'm driving, I always make sure I'm paid up until 9 p.m. I don't like gambling of any kind. So there's that, and the fact that during one bad spell I got so many parking meter-related tickets out of carelessness that I gave up.

I pay even if it's just a minute to run in for coffee. I overpay even. The parking meter people won. They beat me down like a pack of young boys in a circle trying to kill a snake in long grass, with shovels.

Another badminton mate, Robert, goes a bit out of his way to find non-metered (and free) parking. He does this not because he's cheap, but because he's principled. He can't abide the reality that he could drive his car continuously on the streets 24/7, but the second he stops on the side of the road he has to pay.

He reasons it's the same piece of pavement, as a taxpayer, that he has already paid for. He's got a point, and it got me thinking about a new use for self-driving vehicles — as drones to make sure you never have to stop for pay-enforced parking.

Nothing enrages people like that yellow parking ticket under the wipers. People fight parking tickets with the energy, vehemence and resolve usually reserved for toppling corrupt regimes. This could reveal that you have untapped reserves of chutzpah. Or that you should be chilling out a bit more ... maybe try pilates.

At this point, wanna joke about a parking ticket? No. Fine. Apparently that's an actual joke about a parking ticket.

See, even the jokes about parking tickets suck. Parking tickets are not cool.

Parking meter fun facts!

- The world's first installed parking meter was in Oklahoma City on July 16, 1935.
- In 1960, New York City hired its first crew of meter maids — all women. The first man was hired in 1967.
- Chicago has North America's highest downtown parking meter rates — $6.50 per hour.

Parking meters are seemingly banal, but oh-so telling. ISTOCK

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See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There is no point trying to convince people who don't want to be convinced. The only way you can win over those who doubt you is by practicing what you preach.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
There may be a pile of work that needs to be done but does it have to be done immediately? Of course not. Stay calm and make today a day of relaxation.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You probably don't care in the slightest that not everyone approves of your methods. That's fine, but don't antagonize people for the sake of it. Haven't you got enough problems already?

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Both career and family matters may be under heavy influences at the moment but in a matter of days you will realize there was precious little to really be worried about. A sense of humour is a must.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Travel plans may not run smoothly today and although you may take delays in your stride other people will get hot under the collar. Make things easier for yourself, and others, by not making last minute changes.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today's full moon may have you behaving in irrational ways, so wait a day before making important decisions. Do something positive and try not to give yourself too much time to think.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
More than likely you will find yourself at odds with loved ones. If you get through the day with no blazing rows, you will have done very well indeed.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
With the right attitude, all things are possible. With the wrong attitude even the smallest of problems seems insurmountable. Keep that thought in mind and you will find it easier to smile and get through the day.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You are acutely aware of injustice but sometimes you see injustice where it does not in fact exist. Be careful what causes you get involved in today because your emotions may be a little bit off-centre.

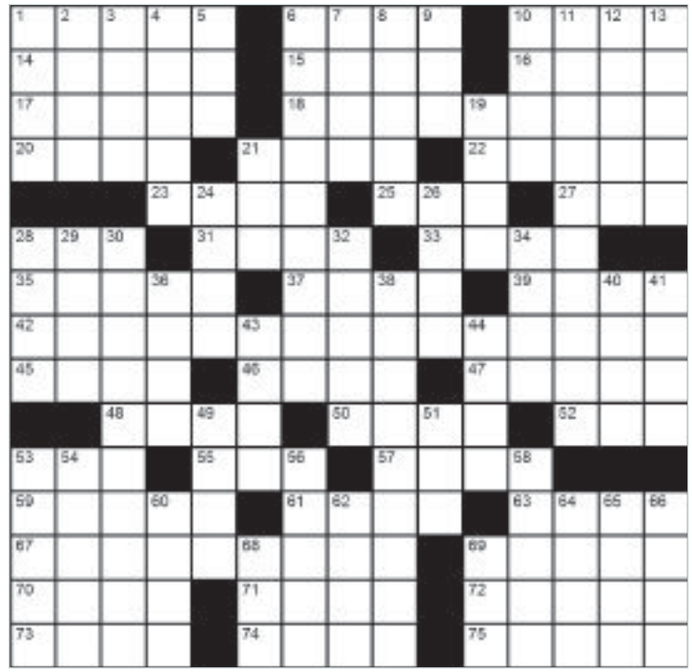
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You know what you like and you don't care if no one else on the planet agrees. You may face considerable opposition today but in a strange way it will energize you.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Why do so many people you don't like insist on getting close to you? Maybe it's because your subconscious is attracting them. Or maybe they're in the mood for a fight. Either way, there will be ructions today.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't jump to conclusions today or you could spend the rest of the week apologizing for something. It may look as if someone is behaving in anti-social ways but looks can be deceiving. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

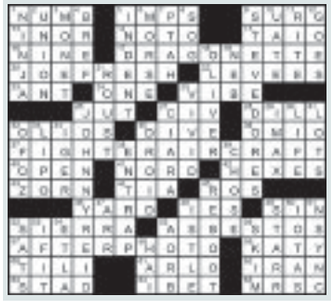
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Singer Justin, to fans
6. "__ and Michele's High School Reunion"
10. Helper, for short
14. Sarah McLachlan song
15. Bit of a classic tongue-twister, "__ Wood sawed wood."
16. "The Cosby Show" son
17. Newfoundland's __ Banks
18. NFB = National __ __
20. Riverbank deposit
21. Reply to, for short
22. Get married again
23. Mix
25. "Hotfoot it, horse!"
27. US tax bureau
28. Bawl
31. CANADA has __ _, Three As...
33. Double
35. Without the extras
37. Zap
39. NY Mets ballpark, __ Field
42. Cadbury's seasonal treats: 3 wds.
45. Actor, Dick Van __
46. Carrier of blood
47. Purport
48. Roof's rim thingy
50. Env. info
52. "Promiscuous" singer ...her initials-sharer
53. Decide
55. Hesitant sounds
57. Don Juan type
59. Rustic retreat
61. Potato chips brand
63. Does up a jacket
67. CBC series set in the Alberta foothills
69. FOX's "Glee" character
70. Rattling breathing sound
71. Border
72. Bryan Adams tune
73. Photocopies made bigger, for short
74. Celebrity chef, Paula __
75. Where actors might be: 2 wds.

Down
1. Purses
2. Crucifix inscription
3. Equal: French
4. Tendencies
5. Like the purchased house [abbr.]
6. Citation
7. Medical suffix
8. Ralph __ ("Happy Days" role)
9. "Delish!"
10. Stick _ __ in the water
11. Jean Chretien's hometown in Quebec
12. More dry
13. Namesakes of actor Mr. Bridges
19. Cauldron's content
21. __ Tin Tin
24. Musical quality
26. Any thing
28. Went too fast
29. Skin care products brand
30. Sport invented in 1891 by McGill grad James Naismith
32. Governing body of The Vatican
34. Reykjavik is its cap.
36. Virginia willow
38. Canadiens great goaltender-turned-politician: 2 wds.
40. Two-days-from-Wed. exclamation!
41. Belief systems
43. Winnebago owner, informally
44. Hosiery hue
49. Let off steam
51. Li'l hairstyles
53. Earthy pigment
54. Praiseful hymn in ancient Greece
56. "Run Runaway" band from England
58. Canadian rock producer, Bob __
60. Wraths
62. Brad's beloved, briefly
64. "Take __ __ a blessing.
65.Hardwood flooring choice
66 Show to one's table
68. Zeppelin's pal
69. Hubbub

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

7	5		2	1				
		8	5	4				2
2					9	1	5	
4		1			5		2	
	3		8		4		7	
	8		1			3		6
	9	4	6					5
1				5	8	7		
				2	1		3	9

Yesterday's Sudoku

9	6	7	3	5	2	8	4	1
4	2	8	1	6	7	9	5	3
5	1	3	4	9	8	2	6	7
8	3	6	9	1	4	5	7	2
2	4	9	5	7	6	3	1	8
1	7	5	2	8	3	4	9	6
3	5	2	6	4	1	7	8	9
7	9	1	8	2	5	6	3	4
6	8	4	7	3	9	1	2	5

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: -2° MIN: -12°	MAX: 0° MIN: -7°	MAX: 5° MIN: -1°

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CITY: **7.1**L/100 KM▼

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INCLUDES **$750** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ

SE with Tech. shown

2013 ELANTRA GT GL

HWY: **5.3**L/100 KM
CITY: **7.8**L/100 KM▼

SELLING PRICE: $20,030* ELANTRA GT GL 6-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY, DESTINATION, FEES & $750 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ INCLUDED. PLUS GST/PST.

2013 BEST NEW SMALL CAR (OVER $21K)

OWN IT FOR	WITH	AND		GET UP TO
$111 BI-WEEKLY	**0%†** FINANCING FOR **84** MONTHS	**$0** DOWN PAYMENT	OR	**$2,500** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ ON SELECT TRIMS

INCLUDES **$500** IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ

Limited model shown

2013 ELANTRA L

HWY: **5.2**L/100 KM
CITY: **7.1**L/100 KM▼

SELLING PRICE: $16,980* ELANTRA L 6-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY, DESTINATION, FEES & $500 IN PRICE ADJUSTMENTSΩ INCLUDED. PLUS GST/PST.

2012 CANADIAN & NORTH AMERICAN CAR OF THE YEAR

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Limited model shown

2013 TUCSON L

HWY: **7.7**L/100 KM
CITY: **10.4**L/100 KM▼

SELLING PRICE: $21,895* TUCSON L 5-SPEED MANUAL. DELIVERY, DESTINATION & FEES INCLUDED. PLUS GST/PST.

OWN IT FOR	WITH	AND		GET UP TO
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™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Finance offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto/Accent 4 Door L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual (includes $750 in price adjustments)/Elantra L 6-Speed Manual (includes $500 in price adjustments)/ Tucson L 5-Speed Manual with an annual finance rate of 1.99%/0%/0%/0%/0.99% for 84 months. Bi-weekly payments are $168/$82/$111/$94/$125. No down payment required. Cost of Borrowing is $2,048/$0/$0/$0/$777. Finance offers include Delivery and Destination of $1,760/$1,495/$1,495/$1,495/$1,760 fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Finance Offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2013 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual for $16,980 at 0% per annum equals $94 bi-weekly for 84 months for a total obligation of $16,980. Cash price is $16,980. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes $500 price adjustments, Delivery and Destination of $1,495, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Example price excludes registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ▼Fuel consumption for 2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto (HWY 6.7L/100KM, City 10.1L/100KM)/2013 Accent 4 Door L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/2013 Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.8L/100KM)/ Elantra Sedan L 6-Speed Manual (HWY 5.2L/100KM; City 7.1L/100KM)/2013 Tucson L 5-Speed Manual (HWY 7.7L/100KM, City 10.4L/100KM) are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ♦Price of models shown 2013 Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD/Accent 4 Door GLS Auto/Elantra GT SE Tech 6-Speed Auto/Elantra Limited/Tucson Limited AWD is $40,395/$20,230/$27,980/$24,930/$34,245. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,760/$1,495/$1,495/$1,495/$1,760, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding GST/PST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. ΩPrice adjustments are calculated against the vehicle's starting price. Price adjustments of up to $2,000/$1,250/$2,500/$2,250/$2,500 available on 2013 Santa Fe/Accent 4 Door/Elantra GT/ Elantra Sedan/Tucson with the exception of the base models (2013 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD Auto/Accent 4 Door L 6-Speed Manual/Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/Elantra L 6-Speed Manual/Tucson L 5-Speed Manual); however the price adjustments of $750/$500 for the Elantra GT GL 6-Speed Manual/Elantra L 6-Speed Manual are available in the finance offers set forth above. Price adjustments applied before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available offers. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. †Ω♦Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.

Focus Hyundai
1066 Nairn Ave.
Winnipeg, 204-663-3814
or 1-800-545-4488
Dealer Permit # 1383

Murray Hyundai
1700 Waverly St.
Winnipeg, 204-269-5555
Dealer Permit # 4008

Winnipeg Hyundai
3700 Portage Ave. W.
Winnipeg, 204-774-5373
Dealer Permit # 7639

Birchwood Hyundai
2420 McPhillips Street.
Winnipeg, MB, 204-633-2420
Dealer Permit # 4423